

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Navigating the institutional bureaucracy of state government can be intimidating. It is my job to help you secure the vital human services, workforce training, unemployment insurance and other support you need. Please reach out to me and my legislative assistant Bryan Bissell as we strive to serve you. I take my obligation to help you as a citizen, taxpayer and customer connect with your state government seriously.

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Committees

Higher Education

Education Appropriations

Technology, Energy

& Communications



Reuven giving a speech on the House Floor.

ENVIRONMENT

In 2009, as a member of the Energy, Technology and Communications Committee, a large portion of my time was spent fighting to protect the integrity of I-937, the renewable energy initiative passed overwhelmingly by voters. Working with advocates like Nancy Hirsch, a 36th District constituent and NW Energy Coalition leader, and the Sierra Club and Washington Conservation Voters, this year we fought to increase fees on oil production for stormwater runoff mitigation programs that would have supported Puget Sound cleanup efforts. The measure did not pass but we must try again given the importance of the direct linkage between oil and stormwater runoff.

Locally, the \$1 million I obtained for Queen Anne’s McClure Middle School energy efficiency project will provide a great return on investment through decreased utility costs in the years ahead while improving warmth for students and teachers and reducing the 1960s-era building’s carbon footprint in a modest way.

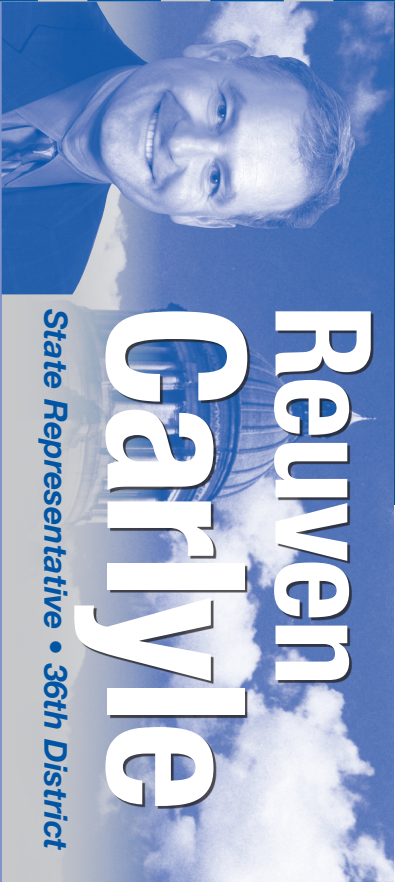
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US POSTAGE PAID  
WA STATE DEPT  
OF PRINTING 98501

2010 SESSION REPORT

State Representative  
**Reuven Carlyle**  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Printed on recycled paper

2010 SESSION REPORT



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The difficult work of the 2010 Washington State Legislature is now complete. As a husband, father, entrepreneur and your part-time citizen legislator I’ve worked hard to tackle core public policy issues important to our community. Families are struggling with underemployment, health care costs, traffic congestion, school assignment changes and anxiety about the cost of living. Now more than ever we need state government to work effectively and efficiently.

My goal has been to address the state budget, K-12 and higher education, transportation, health care, senior services, critical human services, environment and more in an independent, balanced and objective way that recognizes the serious challenges facing our struggling economy.

We balanced your state budget with a combination of major spending cuts, reforming government, closing tax loopholes and increasing some targeted taxes. I fought hard against an increase in the general sales tax. In a gesture to reduce my own office budget, this is the only constituent newsletter I am sending during my entire two-year term in office. I also returned \$13,000 in unspent funds and did not accept a per diem during the special session.

On a broader, more systemic level I remain convinced that we must have the courageous honesty to acknowledge the need for fundamental structural changes in government. The state is struggling—like all families, businesses and governments—to seize the opportunity of this economic crisis. We need to think and act in new ways. We need new partnerships with Seattle, Port of Seattle, King County, and we need to recognize that the only long-term solution to our economic crisis is an educated workforce and a vibrant economic infrastructure. For that, we need to prioritize our investment in public education.

It is a genuine honor to represent you in Olympia. I ask you to engage with me and speak out on the issues that inspire you in building community.

Your partner in service,

*Reuven Carlyle*

Reuven Carlyle  
State Representative  
36th Legislative District





# STATE BUDGET: BALANCED WITH CUTS, REVENUE

During this Great Recession when so many families are struggling, our consumption-driven tax structure has seen a massive \$12 billion reduction in revenues from our \$34 billion budget.

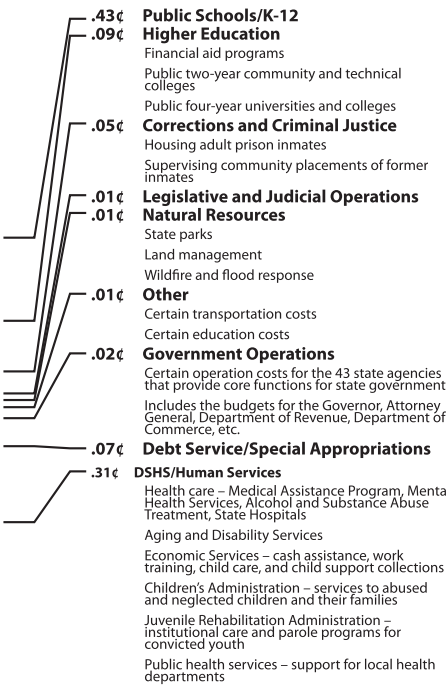
More than 65% of the state budget is constitutionally or federally mandated (K-12, Medicaid, etc.). Here's how we balanced the budget in 2009 and 2010: 36% from direct cuts in state services; 32% from federal recovery funds; 24% from fund transfers including the state's "rainy day account" and 8% from revenue increases (pop, cigarettes, mass produced beer, B&O).



On a larger level the Legislature accomplished a great deal in reforming education, protecting health care coverage for children, ensuring senior programs like Meals on Wheels and property tax exemptions for low-income seniors. The new revenues will pay for extremely important programs including health care for low income children, community health centers, early learning programs, financial aid for our community colleges and universities, and home care workers for the elderly and disabled. But in my view, we regrettably did not do an overly impressive job on environmental issues or higher education funding and student financial aid.

We must acknowledge that now is the time to embrace the opportunity of this larger economic crisis. I am not satisfied. We need to respectfully but forcefully push the institutional infrastructure of government to be more responsive, open and transparent for citizens. State government

## This is how our state money is spent.



needs a more humble, 'servant leadership' approach for how to engage with real people living real lives. I have attempted to continually ask the fundamental questions: If we had the courage to design state government from scratch today, what would it look like? What level of government should perform what type of services?

# EDUCATION AND RACE TO THE TOP



Reuven with Seattle Center School students.

Public education is the paramount duty of our state government. Unfortunately we have failed to fully fund K-12 and Seattle's generous local levy dollars are used for core services. Public education is not a luxury. The Obama administration is leading the charge nationally through the Race to the Top program, which gives schools incentives and support to adopt more rigorous standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and be better prepared for the workplace and the global economy. Top states will receive additional federal funds to build better data systems, recruit and hire more qualified teachers, and create and invent effective reforms that can provide examples for schools throughout the country.

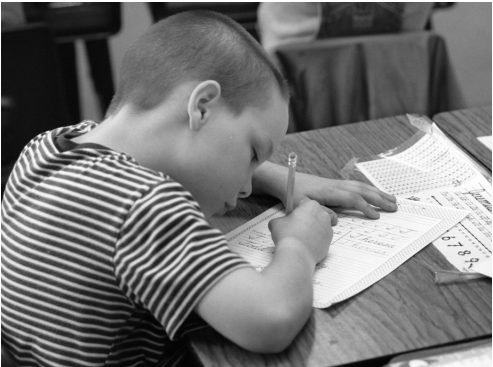
With insight from community leaders like Seattle School Board President Michael DeBell, Ballard High School principal Phil Brockman, Stand for Children, Washington Education Association, the League of Education Voters and so many others, we passed a modestly strong Race to the Top bill this year. I am excited to have successfully included a major amendment in the legislation designed to secure up to \$250 million in federal funds for public education in our state. My provision effectively eliminates de-facto tenure for future principals in Seattle. Next year, in partnership with teacher, principals and administrators, I'll introduce a second major bill to provide principals with greater authority over budgets and teacher assignments to match the greater accountability we are now requiring.

The Race to the Top competition is not just about money, of course, it is about our deeper sense of conviction and commitment to education reform. And change. The competition for federal dollars is simply the additional incentive and motivation during these very serious financial times, but the

cause and purpose are children in the classroom. I fought hard for a major policy change that will now, for the first time, include early childhood education—the best return on investment possible—in our state's definition of basic education.

As a member of the Education Appropriations Committee, I worked extremely hard to specifically minimize the budget cuts to the Seattle Public School District, University of Washington and our state's 34 community colleges. I regret the budget ultimately cut too much in work study financial aid for college students, a decision I feel was unjust and unwise.

Still, I am proud to have helped maintain \$4.6 million in college scholarship support for foster youth, and to have secured more than \$1.2 million to enable community college faculty to create "open textbook course material" that eliminates expensive, proprietary textbooks for more than 200,000 college students. The Gates Foundation matched the state's investment, which will save students literally more than \$20 million each year in out of pocket expenses. We also expanded our state's on line distance learning that now serves more than 250,000 students statewide.



## GOVERNMENT REFORM, TECHNOLOGY SAVINGS

Pushing government to be more engaged in delivering services effectively and efficiently is a great passion of mine. I am pleased to have passed a major government efficiency and reform bill to meaningfully restructure how state government spends more than \$1 billion per year on technology. I've been deeply frustrated that we spend so much without a strong, coordinated, enterprise wide approach. That needs to change and this bill is a major step forward that will lead to savings of more than \$200 million in the coming years. Those are dollars that are better used for public education, foster youth, college students, affordable housing, small business support, economic development and so much more.

House Bill 3178 is expected to save taxpayers \$30 million this year alone by streamlining state IT services. Along those lines, one of my genuine disappointments was my unsuccessful effort to stop the technically and financially unjustified construction of a \$300 million state data center in Olympia.

Another of my priority reform bills is designed to help seek greater administrative efficiencies in our state's fantastic community and technical college system serving more than 500,000 people in 34 colleges statewide. State government is a 110,000, \$35 billion enterprise. I firmly believe the legislature has a public and moral obligation to strengthen our oversight and audit role.

## TRANSPORTATION

After decades of talk and thousands of hours of wasted time in traffic, we are hopefully finally fixing the Mercer Mess. I worked with U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, Governor Gregoire and other state leaders to secure \$30 million to help convert the corridor into a better designed, safer, more pedestrian and bicycle friendly boulevard that allows better traffic flow and access from Queen Anne, Belltown, Magnolia and Ballard to Route 99 and I-5.

I was lead sponsor of a new law to make the use of a cell phone without a headset, and texting while behind the wheel, a primary rather than secondary offense. Working with 36th District citizen activist Lowell Weiss (a volunteer who organized an amazing community group that successfully pushed this bill through the entire process) and Coe Elementary 5th Grader Noah Sarkowsky, we strengthened the law to improve safety on our roads for everyone.

We also passed a bill that will help us continue with our progress on replacing the SR 520 floating bridge in a way that mandates effective connections for HOV lanes and transit and provides for environmental mitigation in the Washington Park Arboretum. This project will lead us into a more integrated, regional transportation system that can sustain the Puget Sound's projected population growth.

Like my seatmates Sen. Kohl-Welles and Rep. Dickerson, I share the deep reservations of the Ballard, Queen Anne and Magnolia community councils about access to the viaduct replacement tunnel and I am working to require the state DOT to address design, traffic and flow concerns to ensure better accessibility to the tunnel from Northwest Seattle. I have aggressively pushed the agency to focus on a more effective project management system to ensure on time, on budget delivery of the major project. While I publicly led House opposition to a punitive amendment forcing "Seattle area taxpayers" to be on the hook for potential tunnel cost overruns, the unfair and inappropriate provision unfortunately remains in effect. I continue to actively battle this unjust and unwise provision.

In the years to come we simply must tackle the need for structural change in how we fund transportation. The gas tax is declining as vehicles get better mileage yet constitutionally we still can't use those dollars for public transit solutions. We need a new, integrated and more thoughtful model such as privacy-protected, electronic regional tolling that stops pitting roads and ferries against public transportation.

Reuven at the Mercer Corridor Federal Tiger grant announcement